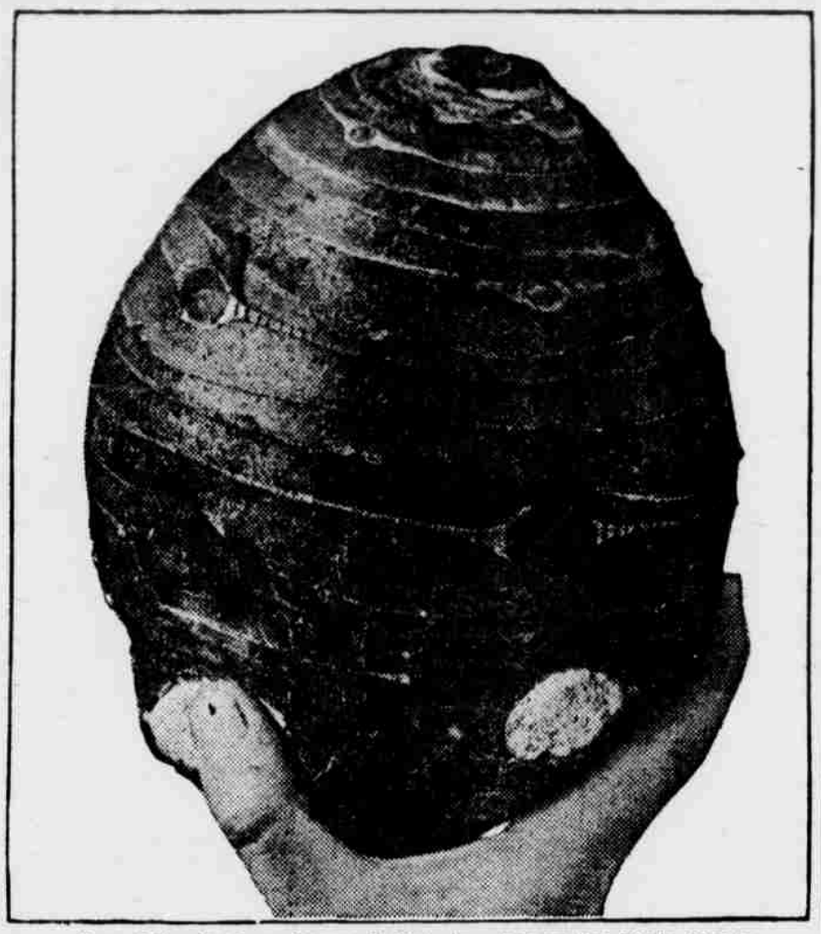
INTRODUCING THE DASHEEN, NEW EDIBLE



One of the Dasheen Corms, Which Are Forced for Their Shoots.

The dasheen, a comparatively new edible, threatens the supremacy of the potato. It is being cultivated in Florida with much success and with much profit to its cultivators, says the Fruitman's Guide.

The dasheen stalks grow to a height of from four to six feet. The plant has shield-shaped leaves, not unlike elephant's ears. Each hill of dasheen contains one or two large spherical corms, which grow to five pounds in weight; round them are developed numerous tubers. Both corms and tubers are like the potato in composition, but they contain less water. One plant will produce from four to ten pounds of tubers in good rich soil. Both corms and tubers have an agreeable nutty flavor, and are easily digested.

The cook can serve a dasheen in the same way that she serves a potato, and she can also prepare the blanched shoots, forced from the corms in hothouses, as she does asparagus. The leaves, when tender, will take the place of spinach. Perhaps the dasheen will be a familiar vegetable in our markets before long.

HARVESTING IN SOUTH

Suggestions for Handling Crops for Hay or Straw.

Best Results Obtained Where Wheat or Oats Are Cut in "Milk" or Very Soft Dough State—Guard Against Bad Weather.

Methods of handling wheat and oats vary widely in different localities. In the South the harvest is in some ways differently conducted than in the North. There are, however, a number of operations which farmers almost universally have found to their advantage. Where the neighborhood in which wheat or oats are grown is so far distant that threshing machines are not readily available, farmers have found it more feasible to cut the wheat and oats either as hay or to tie the crops into medium-sized bundles to be fed as straw.

Provided the wheat or oats crop is intended for hay, best results are obtained where the crops are cut in the "milk" or very soft dough stage. The stalks will be mostly green, or just beginning to show signs of ripening below. After cutting, the oats or wheat should be cured, and handled exactly as any other common grass hays. If conditions are favorable, the hay will have a bright green color, but if cutting is delayed until the grain is in the full dough stage, the hay will be dry, hard and bleached and the feeding value diminished.

If it is intended to feed the grain in the self-binder cannot be used the cutting may be done a little earlier than otherwise. The grain, shocked in the manner already mentioned, should be left in the field until it is thoroughly cured and then threshed without delay. If no threshing machine is available at once, the grain should be either stacked or stored in a barn during the interval.

On small farms where storage space is not abundant it will probably pay the farmer to sell the grain as soon as it is threshed. With the exercise of a little co-operation he may arrange with the neighbors to make up a sufficient quantity to ship out as a carload. If the straw, the cutting should be put off until the grain has reached the hard dough stage and most of the stalks have taken on a yellow color. Under favorable weather conditions the grain will cure sufficiently for storage purposes in six or eight days if put up in carefully made round shocks of nine bundles each, including one cap bundle. Near the coast, where frequent rains are to be expected at this season, grain should be put in small shocks, containing only six bundles, and left uncapped so that it will dry out quickly after a rain.

In the case of oats it is also possible to dispose advantageously of the crop by shipping it in bags to grain brokers or feed dealers in nearby towns. When this is done, however, it is of great importance to have the oats cleaned and of uniform quality. One hundred-pound bags are probably the most satisfactory. When these are shipped into another state the federal law requires that the net weight of grain in the bags be marked upon them. Each bag should contain the quantity indicated by the marks on the outside; that is, if the bags are marked "100 pounds" they should contain 100 pounds of grain, actual weight.

HORSE IN DEMAND IN SOUTH

Diversification Creates Market for Mares to Breed to Jacks for Plantation Motive Power.

While the demand for horses from army buyers has not brought the prices up to the expectations of many owners, the horse grower should not despair. There is a new market and a permanent one opening up in this country. It will not be dependent upon the war-whims of European nations. The South is beginning to feel the need of more farm power. The one-mule-one-horse day of agriculture in that section is passing, says Farm Progress. The South as cotton growing area might get along with the one-horse system, but a new South taking up diversified farming wants more power and this means a demand for more mules and more horses. The southern states are going to be big buyers of mares in the next few years. They will want the mares to breed to jacks to furnish plantation motive power and these buyers are going to want mares in large numbers.

Come war or peace, the horse demand is going to be steady and strong for a long time. The South is not going to change over from the one-mule system to the tractor. The tractor will follow the big teams and these must come first.

Profitable Root Crop.

Ten tons of roots per acre—about the amount that can be grown on land that will yield 50 bushels of corn to the acre—is not a profitable crop, but 20, or even 25, tons may easily be secured under good management, and will pay well.

Attacks of Impaction.

Mature horses of a greedy disposition, if allowed to run to alfalfa racks at will, may eat too much and suffer attacks of impaction. Draft mares heavy in foal, and taking but little exercise, not infrequently suffer attacks of this nature.

Starting With Alfalfa.

If you have never grown alfalfa start in with a small area until you know about the crop.

SONG SPARROW AN OPTIMIST

Cheery Bird, Permanent Resident, Asks Little for Services, Which Are Valuable.

The song sparrow, cheery-voiced forerunner of spring, is the subject of an article by Miss Harriet E. Bancroft, which appears in the Ohio Arbor and Bird Day Manual, issued by the state department of public instruction for use in the schools. In telling about the song sparrow Miss Bancroft says:

"There are so many different kinds of small, sober-hued birds, which look alike, and yet are not alike, that you wonder how you are to distinguish this one from the others. Each bird has his recognition mark and song sparrow's is the spot in the middle of his speckled breast; and while in color he is of the earth, earthy, and bears upon his breast a spot, you must not think that these are the outward signs of an inward blemish, because he hasn't any.

"There is great variation in the habits of different sparrows with respect to migration. The tree sparrow is with us only in winter, the field sparrow is a summer bird, the white-crowned migrant; that is, he pays us a short visit in the spring and again in the fall, while on his way to more remote regions; but song sparrow is a permanent resident in nearly all parts of the state. He shares with us the storms as well as the sunshine of the rounded year.

"His cone-shaped bill tells you that he is a seed-eating bird and the weeds yield him a plentiful supply of them. He also eats slugs and worms and ground-inhabiting insects when they are to be had, and his choice of diet makes him a valuable assistant to the farmer. He helps him in his warfare on troublesome weeds and harmful insects.

"It is not too much to say that whoever or whatever helps the farmer to grow better crops, helps the whole world along; but song sparrow's services do not stop here; his finest is that which he renders to our weary spirits when he cheers them with his song. For all the help he gives he asks nothing in return but the privilege of living out his little life unmolested.

"It is said that he and his mate will raise three and even four broods in a season, if the weasels, the red squirrels, the cats, the crows, the hawks, the blacksnakes and other ill-disposed creatures do not harry their lowly nest, which distressing occurrence is all too frequent."

Water for an Army.

One of the numberless tasks of the general staff of a great army is to provide water for the soldiers and the horses. The Scientific American describes some of the methods employed. Only running water is used. In the German army the upstream water is used for drinking, and the downstream water for watering the horses and for bathing. Suitable signs notify the men which water they may safely drink and which they may use only for bathing. In shallow or narrow streams basins are dug or small dams built, in order to form reservoirs of sufficient size. Stepping-stones are put down so that no one need walk through the water, and the banks are shored up with boards to keep them from crumbling into the water. Basins are dug at which to water the horses; when troughs have to be used, they are supported on posts and filled by means of pumps. If water lies at a reasonable depth from the surface—that is, not more than twenty feet—pipes are driven that, according to their size, deliver from four to twenty-five gallons of water a minute. If the water lies very near the surface, a hole is dug, and a cask, the bottom of which has been knocked out, is put into the hole to hold the sides in place and to protect the water from dirt. If the water lies at a greater depth, box sections are driven in, one on top of another, to the required depth.

Modernizing the Roundup.

Each year seems to give the automobile a new hold on life, says the Wall Street Journal. The war brought it to the forefront in a new field. The soldier of the present day seldom makes long forced marches like Sherman's march to the sea. He travels by motor car. As a result, the automobile casualty list is tremendous; the average life of a car in the battle line is estimated at 30 days. But it is not only the war zone that has lost part of its picturesqueness through the use of the automobile. The latter has begun to rob the annual cattle round-up of some of its thrills by replacing the horse. This year has seen the ubiquitous car with a cowboy at its wheel on our western prairies discouraging the cattle from attempts to escape from the ever narrowing circle in the roundup. Many a steer which has given a cow horse a run must feel disconcerted when it bucks up against the four-wheeled steed.

Malaria's Toll in India.

Malaria causes more sickness and death than any other single disease in India.

LITTLE TIME FOR SENTIMENT

Bird House Attendants All Too Busy to Bother About Legendary Stories or Myths.

The visitor approached one of the gayly uniformed attendants who spend their days in the bird house of the Bronx park zoological gardens. This privileged being must, she thought, have imbibed at least a touch of sentiment.

"Isn't there," she asked, "some story, some myth, connected with that pigeon which has on its breast the red splotch like blood from a bullet wound?"

"Story? Myth? Git off! 'Course there ain't no story about it. It's just a red feather or so—that's all. The bird was born that way. See?"

"But where do they come from? There must be a story, some—"

"I tell you there ain't nothin' about 'em. As to where they grow, I think it's the Philippines."

A slightly more affable attendant did disclose the name of the pigeon It was called blood-breasted, and it did come from the Philippines. But if there was a story—and there must have been—none of the liveried information bureaus knew it. No sentiment for them! They only said, "Keep to the right!" when the inquirer became too persistent.—New York Evening Post.

Evasive.

"Will they charge me much, do you think, to get this advertising picture in the papers?"

"Oh, I think it very likely you can get it in at cut rates."

Sweden has 300 iron mines and 40 mines of other metals.

Rabbits are a pest in Alaska.

The Proper One.

"Do you know, I believe I have a case of rose fever?"

"Then why don't you go to a garden doctor?"

Kansas in 1914 produced more wheat than Australia.